

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented) A mixing tube comprising a first mixing passage and a second mixing passage, in each of which a plurality of elements having a sectional shape that changes continuously are connected in series, such that a plurality of types of materials to be mixed pass through the first mixing passage and the second mixing passage, whereby the materials to be mixed are repeatedly divided and aggregated in a passing process;

wherein the first mixing passage and the second mixing passage are formed by a first outer frame member, a second outer frame member, and a partition member is interposed between the first outer frame member and the second outer frame member, the three members dividing the mixing tube in a direction toward which the materials to be mixed pass;

wherein a plurality of holes, each having the same size as one another, are formed at fixed intervals in the partition member in a direction along which the materials to be mixed are mixed, such that the first mixing passage and the second mixing passage repeatedly divide and aggregate due to the holes, thereby repeatedly dividing and aggregating the materials to be mixed so that the materials to be mixed are divided  $2^N$  times and merged together; and

wherein said mixing tube comprises a soft thermoplastic resin which can be squeezed over its entirety with a predetermined force.

2. (Previously Presented) The mixing tube according to claim 1, further comprising:

intermediate partitions provided in the first outer frame member and the second outer frame member, the intermediate partitions dividing the first mixing passage and the second mixing passage, wherein the intermediate partitions of the first outer frame

member and the second outer frame member are welded in the holes of the partition member.

3. (Previously Presented) The mixing tube according to claim 1, further comprising:  
intermediate partitions provided in the first outer frame member and the second outer frame member, the intermediate partitions dividing the first mixing passage and the second mixing passage, wherein the intermediate partitions of the first outer frame member and the second outer frame member are each welded to the partition member.

4. (Previously Presented) The mixing tube according to claim 3, further comprising:  
joining portions provided in the holes of the partition member, the joining portions contacting the intermediate partitions of the first outer frame member and the second outer frame member, wherein the joining portions are welded to the intermediate partitions of the first outer frame member and the second outer frame member.

5. (Previously Presented) The mixing tube according to claim 1, further comprising:  
flanges provided in joining portions where the first outer frame member, the second outer frame member, and the partition member are joined, the flanges formed along, and outside of, the first mixing passage and the second mixing passage;  
wherein the flanges of the partition member are sandwiched by the flanges of the first outer frame member and the second outer frame member, thus integrating the first outer frame member, the second outer frame member, and the partition member and forming the first mixing passage and the second mixing passage.

6. (Previously Presented) The mixing tube according to claim 3, further comprising:  
flanges provided in joining portions where the first outer frame member, the second outer frame member, and the partition member are joined, the flanges formed along, and outside of, the first mixing passage and the second mixing passage;

wherein the flanges of the partition member are sandwiched by the flanges of the first outer frame member and the second outer frame member, thus integrating the first outer frame member, the second outer frame member, and the partition member and forming the first mixing passage and the second mixing passage.

7-10. (Cancelled).

11. (Previously Presented) The mixing tube according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of holes formed in the partition member have a polygonal outer peripheral shape.